

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (New) A method of controlling the use of a weapon, said method including the steps of:

transmitting from an identification unit that is separate from the weapon, a signal that comprises an activation code and a continuous signal after the activation code is transmitted;

receiving with a receiver attached to the weapon the signal transmitted by the identification unit;

monitoring the signal received by the receiver with a processor attached to the weapon and, with the processor, placing the weapon in an active state if the received signal includes the activation code;

after said step of placing the weapon in the active state, with the processor, monitoring the strength of the received signal;

maintaining the weapon in the active state only if the strength of the received signal monitored by the processor is at or above a minimum signal strength, regardless of the frequency of the received signal or the presence/absence of the activation code in the received signal, to avoid a deactivation of the readiness of the weapon to fire by an interfering transmitter, and inactivating the weapon with the processor if the strength of the received signal falls below the minimum strength.

8. (New) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 7, wherein:

prior to said steps of transmitting the activation code and the continuous signal from the identification unit, entering into the identification unit an identification code;

with the identification unit, comparing the entered identification code to a stored identification code stored in the identification unit; and

only if the entered identification code is the same as the stored identification code, performing said steps of transmitting the activation code and the continuous signal from the identification unit.

9. (New) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 8, wherein, in said step of entering an identification code to the identification unit, the identification unit reads biometric data from an individual.

10. (New) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 8, wherein, said step of entering an identification code to the identification unit is performed by reading fingerprint data for an individual into the identification unit through a fingerprint reader attached to the identification unit.

11. (New) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 8, wherein, said step of entering an identification code to the identification unit is performed by reading fingerprint data for an individual into the identification unit through a CCD fingerprint reader attached to the identification unit.

12. (New) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 8, wherein:

a strap is attached to the identification unit for holding the identification unit to an individual and the identification unit includes a sensor for indicating if the strap is closed; and

the identification unit includes a processor for performing said step of comparing the entered identification code to the stored identification code and the strap sensor is connected to the identification unit processor for actuating the processor only when the strap is closed.

13. (New) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 8, wherein:

in said steps of transmitting from the identification unit a signal and of receiving the signal with the receiver, a radio signal is transmitted by the identification unit and received by the receiver; and

said step of monitoring the strength of the received signal is performed by monitoring the strength of the received radio signal.

14. (New) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 7, wherein:

in said steps of transmitting from the identification unit a signal and of receiving the signal with the receiver, a radio signal is transmitted by the identification unit and received by the receiver; and

said step of monitoring the strength of the received signal is performed by monitoring the strength of the received radio signal.

15. (New) The method of controlling the use of a weapon of Claim 7, wherein, in said steps of transmitting from the identification unit a signal and of receiving the signal with the receiver, the transmitted and received signal is selected

from the group consisting of infrared signals and ultrasonic signals.